

## BOOK REVIEW

*Lepra Tuberculoide. Estudo Clínico-histopatológico.* By LAURO DE SOUZA LIMA and NELSON DE SOUZA CAMPOS. Editora Renascença S. A., São Paulo, 1947. Pp. 298, 109 figs.

This book begins with a quotation taken by Rabello from W. Hughes' paper on tuberculoid leprosy [*Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med. & Hyg.* 31 (1938) 383] to the effect that no aspect of leprosy has attracted in recent years so much attention as the tuberculoid form, and that the recognition of it constitutes probably the most important advance in the study of the disease since Hansen discovered the organism in 1874. Tuberculoid leprosy is generally benign; it is practically noncontagious and therefore, in the majority of cases, there is no need for segregation; it originates in highly infected localities and is a true vaccination, and thus "increase in the number of cases of tuberculoid leprosy leads us to hope for proportionate decline in the severity of the endemic disease."

This book, in which the authors have collated and discussed all that is known of this form of leprosy, is a full account based on their observation of nearly 1,000 cases. They describe the evolutionary stages with illustrative photographs, the minute histological changes in tissues obtained for section by biopsy, the bacteriology, and the Mitsuda reaction; they give clinical descriptions of cases, and comment on research for the sources of contagion in the histories of antecedents and by examination of collaterals and descendants.

In order to set out more clearly the clinical picture and the histological features, the authors describe by way of preliminary the general characters of this form of the disease. In Chapter I they define tuberculoid leprosy in general terms, its different forms and its position in the general clinical picture; they discuss the Cairo and South American classifications, giving their reasons for discarding the former and adopting the latter, and they indicate that tuberculoid leprosy is a distinct and well-characterized form of the disease, with lesions of the skin, or of the nerves, or of both. There follows a study of the cutaneous lesions with suggestions for a more rational classification, and a review of the classifications of Tisseuil, of Ota and Sato, of Lefrou and des Essarts, and others.

Next comes a description of the histological pictures of a "pretuberculoid focus" with marked lymphocytic reaction passing on to the sarcoid and lupoid types, and an account of the clinical characters, the nodular, papular, macular and "geographical" subtypes, the color, localization, changes of sensation, degree of infiltration, the finding of (or, rather, the search for but frequent failure to find) bacteria, and the results of the Mitsuda reaction in the different clinical subforms. Succeeding chapters deal more fully with each of the types mentioned, starting with the "figured leprides," i. e., lesions with an infiltrated border, papular, reddish to violet in color (or perhaps hypochromic), and sometimes with a fine desquamation. These are the same as those designated by Ota and Sato as "trichophytoid leprides." The illustrations reproduced show the lesions very clearly. The subject is dealt with under the heading of morphology of the center and of the edges, the results of examination for bacilli, the Mitsuda reaction, the minute pathological histology of different parts of the lesion, and the

prognosis. Cases are subdivided into groups according to the stage of evolution of the lesions into incipient, fully developed and retrogressing.

The nodular type comes next under consideration. This is more common in the young, and the lesions are of a lupoid character, a "tuberculoid granuloma." In this group the Mitsuda reaction is strongly positive, the nervous system is rarely if ever involved (at least not obviously), and there is a tendency to retrogression and cicatrization; in short, it is the most benign form of tuberculoid leprosy. The commonest single sites are, in order, the face, thigh, gluteal region, and forearm. Bacteria are few or absent. In this, as in other chapters, the same lines are followed—a clinical study with notes of cases, localization, results of bacteriological examination and of the Mitsuda reaction, the evolution, progress and retrogression, the histological details and the prognosis.

Chapter V deals with typical acute tuberculoid leprides, or reaction leprides as the authors style them, with a clinical subdivision into three forms, the nodular, the macular and the erythrodermic. Organisms are present and sometimes abundant, in contrast with other forms of tuberculoid leprides. They tend to retrogression and spontaneous cure, usually in a short time, and nervous complications are few. On the other hand they may become, as it were, stabilized, and the prognosis must therefore be guarded; in respect of the two first points the prognosis is quite favorable, but the third is of graver significance. The Mitsuda reaction in 264 cases was strongly positive in 51 (19.3%), definite in 85 (32.2%), weak in 60 (22.7%), negative in 59 (22.3%), and doubtful in the other 9 (3.4%). A table giving details of 51 patients with acute relapses states the initial form, the evolution and the later condition.

Chapters VI and VII deal with atypical forms, those with gradual mutation to the tuberculoid and those of a more acute progression and the transition forms. The penultimate chapter is concerned with tuberculoid leprosy of the nerves, tuberculoid leprotic neuritis, of which the authors have notes of some 50 cases, with resultant anesthesia following a period of hyperesthesia. Caseation is a fairly common sequel (calcification very rare) with muscular atrophy and trophic lesions. The final chapter discusses the mixed cutaneous and nervous variety. Of the total of 966 cases of tuberculoid leprosy there were 185 (19.1%) of this mixed type. Very rarely cases are met with—careful research and inquiry would probably discover more—in which the primary condition is lepromatous and then, after a long interval, the lesions retrogress and even disappear, leaving scars, and give place to the neuro-cutaneous form secondarily. There were only two such in the authors' list. A photograph of one of them is given, and photomicrographs to show the histology of sections of the skin.

To sum up: the work is a very careful and detailed, one might with justice call it a complete, study of this aspect of leprosy. There are 109 illustrations, all clearly reproduced and showing what the authors describe in the text; the matter is well arranged, the clinical records aptly chosen, and the quotations fully authenticated. Each chapter has its references in footnotes and these are abundant. In short, this is an admirable piece of work and should be in the hands of all leprologists interested in the clinical and pathological aspects of tuberculoid leprosy. There is no index, but the contents of each chapter are given at the beginning of the book and also at the head of each chapter, so that a detailed index is not really needed. —[Review by H. Harold Scott in *Trop. Dis. Bull.* 45 (1948) 658-660.]